

TO THE LOVERS AND COLLECTORS OF THE MOST
INTERESTING AND HISTORICALLY THE MOST IM-
PORTANT ISSUES OF ALL OUR COLONIAL AND
UNITED STATES COINAGE, THIS LITTLE BROCHURE
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

PUBLISHED 1937



Presented to

B. G. Johnson

No. *9* — *Carl Witzbach* *Publisher*

Foreword

THE forming of the collection of Massachusetts Colonial Silver herein illustrated and described is an achievement that brings to realization a life long ambition. Only because this collection makes such a large contribution and is so informing to the knowledge of the many issues am I induced to state, that by far it is the nearest complete, and in the finest state of preservation of any heretofore assembled. Having to do with the struggles of the Colonists to provide a stable medium of exchange. Issued in violation and defiance of the laws governing coinage, resulting in the revoking of the Charter of The Massachusetts Bay Colony. Playing such a vital and potent part in the final decision to separate from the Mother Country, this series has always held a high interest in the forming of their cabinets by all great collectors of American Coins. This list is a long and honorable one. Among the more prominent ones are the names of Finotti, McCoy, Mickley, Clay, Bushnell, Davis, Cleaney, Parmelee, Whitman, Winsor, Mills, H. P. Smith, Stickney, Geschwend, Zabriski, Earle, Parsons, Bement, Jackman, Jenks, TenEyck, Brand, Clapp, Ellsworth, Hall, Granberg, Col. Green, Gutttag, Newcomer, Ryder, DeWitt Smith, Newcomer, T. James Clarke, Stearns and others in the United States W. S. Lincoln and Dr. Clay of England and Ulex of Germany.

This collection contains specimens from the Cabinets of each collector mentioned. Although all had representative examples in their sets, only Crosby, Brand, DeWitt Smith, Stearns and Clarke seem to have had the purpose to have their collections embrace all known issues. Of those collecting at the beginning of the century, Mr. Smith of my own town came nearest this achievement, before that Mr. Crosby while selecting material for his monumental work on the Colonial Coinage of America 1875 (which was then, is now, and always will be the standard guide) had available for illustration and description purposes all the specimens in the great cabinets of the time. Many of these Mr. Crosby purchased, his collection sold in 1883 was the most complete of any formed up to that time, although Dr. Clay-1871-probably had more peices. The late Virgil M Brand having purchased collection after collection including De Witt S. Smiths-Dr. Halls-one formed by the writer (1918) and others, besides purchasing individual peices at private and auction sales undoubtedly collected more peices than ever have been or can be gotten together by one person. The number I estimate to be more than 250. Even with the resources and facilities at Mr. Brands command his set lacked several varieties this collection contains. I am

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greatly indebted to Mr. B. G. Johnson for allowing me inspect and purchase many gem specimens from the Brand collection. Both the Col. Green and Stearns collection² are large, but I have no knowledge of them except in a general way, a considerable correspondence with Mr. Stearns (recently deceased) leads me to think his collection is a remarkable one. Mr. Charles E. Clapp an ardent student and collector of Colonials in forming his cabinet acquired a set of Massachusetts silver comparable with that of Mr. De Witt Smith in some respects superior, The purchase of Mr. Clapps collection comprises the major part of my set.

I have many times stated, the conviction becoming more and more profound that-although not referred to in histories of the Revolution-no one act of the Colonists had so much to do in influencing them to commit each succeeding act leading to the final rupture with the Mother Country as did the coining of New-England-Willow-Oak-and Pine Tree money. Begun during Cromwells reign in 1652 and continuing without change of date until 1684 when as already stated their Charter was revoked, with penalties imposed for violation of the coinage laws of England i. e. "To confiscate double the amount found in the possession of any person, to be placed in the Pillory for an indefinite period, and to have one ear cut off" Other forms of persecution also were inflicted. In defence the Colonists stated the dire necessity of having a coinage of stable and intrinsic value accusing England of being careless and indifferent in supplying it, expressing themselves in assembly as follows. (Crosby page 76) "From the Massachusetts Archives October 30, 1684. "And as for the minting or stamping peices of silver to pass amongst ourselves for xii^d-vi^d-iii^d we were necessitated thereunto, having no stable comodity in our Country to pay debts or buy necessities, but Fish & Corn; which was so cumbersom & troublesom as could not be born. and therefore for some years Paper-Bills passed for payment of Debts; w^{ch} were very subject to be lost, rent, or counterfeited, & other inconveniences, Then comes in a considerable quantity of light base Spanish Money, whereby many people were cousened, and the Colony in danger of being undone thereby; Which put vs upon the project of melting it down & stamping such peices as aforesaid to pass in paym^t of Debts amongst ourselves" A Tract in defence of the coinage was printed and distributed in 1684. (Crosby page 113). Of such heroic stuff were the founders of our Great Republic. Some years after the discontinuance of this coinage, the following prophecy was made "Some of this money must be yet in being. It is not improbable but Mr. Hollis must have had some of it A proffessed Antiquary will in some remote period seek for it with avidity" How completely this prophecy has been fulfilled. It would seem from the foregoing that the issues were seized to be destroyed. The marvel is that any where preserved to come down to our times. A detailed description of each number follows.

Spelling punctuation etc of above are a literal transcription.

AN INDEX OF COMPLETE SET OF MASSACHUSETTS COLONIAL SILVER MONEY AS
REPRESENTED BY THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIONS, NUMBERED FROM 1 TO 72

- 1 1650 Pine Tree Shilling Pattern. Unique with this spelling. Uncirculated.
 - 2 1650 Pine Tree Shilling Pattern. Unique. Uncirculated.
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- 3 1652 New England Shilling. Rarity 6. Extremely fine.
 - 4 1652 New England Shilling. Unique die broken XII. Uncirculated.
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- 5 1652 Willow Tree Shilling. Crosby 2^b-C. Rarity 6. Fine.
 - 6 1652 Willow Tree Sixpence. Crosby 2^b-C. Unique variety. Uncirculated.
 - 7 1652 Willow Tree Threepence. Crosby 2^b-C. Unknown to, unique variety, 3 known. Uncirculated.
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- 8 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 1^a-D. Rarity 6. Extremely fine gem.
 - 9 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 1^b-D. Rarity 3. Uncirculated.
 - 10 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 2-D. Rarity 1. Extremely fine.
 - 10-A 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 2-D. Rarity 4, break very heavy. Uncirculated.
 - 11 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 3-D. Rarity 4. Uncirculated.
 - 12 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 4-C. Rarity 3. Uncirculated.
 - 13 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 5-A. Of the utmost rarity 6. Extremely fine gem.
 - 14 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby. Unknown to Obv. New. Rev. C. unique. Very fine.
 - 15 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 6^a-E1. Rarity 4 Tree always delicate. Very fine.
 - 16 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 6^b-E2. Rarity 4. Uncirculated.
 - 17 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 7-B. Rarity 1. Extremely fine.
 - 18 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 8-F. Rarity 6. Uncirculated.
 - 19 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 9-G. Rarity 6. Extremely fine.
 - 20 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 9-H. Rarity 2. Uncirculated.
 - 21 1652 Oak Tree Shilling Crosby 9-I. Rarity 6. Excessively rare uncirculated gem.

The above fifteen Oak Tree Shillings comprise every known variety.

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|------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 22 | 1652 Oak Tree Six Pence Crosby 1 ^a -D. | Rarity 1. | Uncirculated. |
| 23 | 1652 Oak Tree Six Pence Crosby 1 ^b -D. | Rarity 1. | Extremely fine. |
| 24 | 1652 Oak Tree Six Pence Crosby 1 ^c -D. | Rarity 3. | Uncirculated gem. |
| 25 | 1652 Oak Tree Six Pence Crosby 2-B. | Rarity 6, may be unique. | Extremely fine. |
| 26 | 1652 Oak Tree Six Pence Crosby 4-C. | Rarity 4. | Uncirculated gem. |
| 26-A | 1652 Oak Tree Six Pence Crosby 4-C. | Rarity 4, variety. | Very fine. |
| 27 | 1652 Oak Tree Six Pence Crosby 6-F. | Rarity 3 perfect die. | Extremely fine. |
| 27-A | 1652 Oak Tree Six Pence Crosby 6-F. | Rarity 3 broken obverse and reverse. | Uncirculated gem. |

Above Lacks Two Varieties One Unique.

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| 28 | 1652 Oak Tree Three Pence Crosby 1-A1. | Rarity 5. | Uncirculated gem. |
| 29 | 1652 Oak Tree Three Pence Crosby 2-A1. | Rarity 5. | Very fine. |
| 30 | 1652 Oak Tree Three Pence Crosby 3-A2. | Rarity 6. | Extremely fine. |
| 31 | 1652 Oak Tree Three Pence Crosby 4-A2. | Rarity 3. | Extremely fine. |
| 32 | 1652 Oak Tree Three Pence Crosby 5-B. | Rarity 2. | Very fine. |
| 33 | 1652 Oak Tree Three Pence Crosby 6-C. | Rarity 6. | Very fine. |
| 33-A | 1652 Oak Tree Three Pence Crosby 6-C. | Unique heavy die break. | Fine. |

Above comprises all known varieties.

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|------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 34 | 1662 Oak Tree Two Pence Crosby 1-A1. | Rarity 4. | Uncirculated gem. |
| 35 | 1662 Oak Tree Two Pence Crosby 1-A2. | Rarity 4. | Uncirculated gem. |
| 35-A | 1662 Oak Tree Two Pence Crosby 1-A2. | Rarity 6. | Uncirculated gem. |
| 36 | 1662 Oak Tree Two Pence Crosby 1-A3. | Rarity 4. | Uncirculated gem. |

Above comprises all known varieties.

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| 37 | 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 1 ^a -C. | Rarity 4. | Uncirculated. |
| 38 | 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 1 ^b -C. | Rarity 1. | Uncirculated. |
| 39 | 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 1 ^b -D. | Rarity 1. | Uncirculated. |
| 39-A | 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 1 ^b -D. | Rarity 1. | Uncirculated |
| 40 | 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 2 ^a -A1. | Rarity 4. | Extremely fine. |
| 40-A | 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 2 ^a -A1. | Rarity 4. | Uncirculated. |
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- 41 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 3-F. Rarity 5. Extremely fine.
 42 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 4-F. Rarity 3. Extremely fine.
 42-A 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 4-F. Rarity 3. Extremely fine.
 43 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 5-B1. Rarity 3. Uncirculated gem.
 44 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 5-B2. Rarity 3. Uncirculated gem.
 45 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 7-B3. Rarity 4. Uncirculated proof gem.
 46 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 10-P. Rarity 5. But two known uncirculated.
 Mickley (1865) dubbed this the Cog wheel because of very large pellets the die work is very similar to that on the 1650 patterns I think the same die cutter produced both.
 47 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 12-I. Perfect die rarity 1. Magnificent uncirculated gem.
 47-A 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 12-I. Rarity 2. Broken reverse. Extremely fine.
 48 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 13-S. Rarity 2. Uncirculated.
 49 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 14-R. Rarity 4. Extremely fine.
 50 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 15-O. Rarity 4. Extremely fine.
 51 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 16-L. Rarity 4. Extremely fine.
 51-A 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 16-L. Rarity 4. Shattered die extremely fine.
 53 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 16-O. Rarity 4. Extremely fine.
 54 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 18-L. Rarity 4. Uncirculated.
 55 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 18-Q. Rarity 4. Very fine but 2 known.
 56 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 19-Q. Rarity 5. Excessively rare the other good probably but 2 known extremely fine.
 57 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 20-L. Rarity 3. Extremely fine.
 58 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 21-L. Rarity 1. Uncirculated gem.
 59 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 22-L. Rarity 1. Uncirculated gem.
 60 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 23-L. Rarity 4. Extremely fine.
 61 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 23-M. Rarity 4. Excessively rare very fine.
 62 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 24-N. Rarity 4. Excessively rare very fine.
 62-A 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby 24-N. Die broken may be unique. Very fine.
 63 1652 Pine Tree Shilling Crosby Obv. New. Rev. 5². Rarity 5. Uncirculated.

The above embraces all Crosby numbers excepting six of these four were so poor he could not give a good description, none have been discovered since, so his attribution seems decidedly doubtful, one other he thought modern. It seems fair to assume that all but one known variety are here represented. Have also 5 or 6 with minor die differences No. 63 was unknown to Crosby.

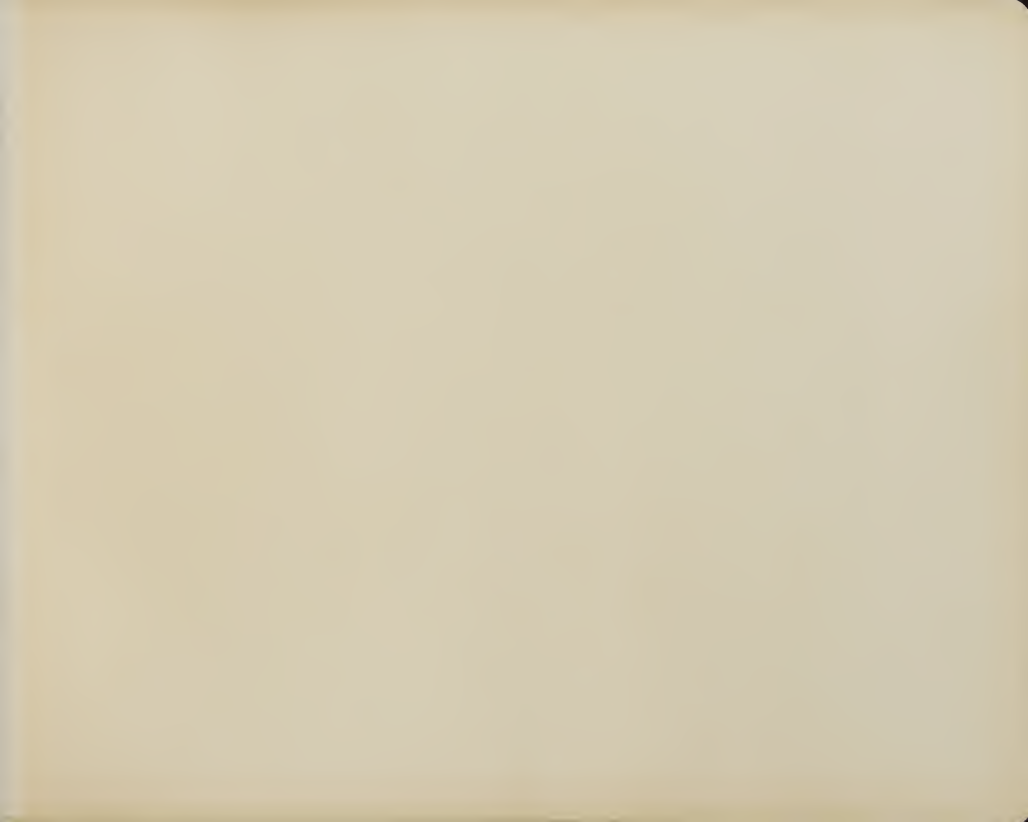
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- 64 1652 Pine Tree Six Pence Crosby 1-A. Rarity 1. Uncirculated and well centered.
65 1652 Pine Tree Six Pence Crosby 1-A. Unique double struck. Uncirculated.
66 1652 Pine Tree Six Pence Crosby 2 Oak D. Rarity 6. Excessively rare but 3 known. Extremely fine.
67 1652 Pine Tree Six Pence. Unknown to Crosby. Excessively rare 2 known. Extremely fine.

Above comprises all known varieties.

- 68 1652 Pine Tree Three Pence Crosby 1-A1. Rarity 3. Very fine.
69 1652 Pine Tree Three Pence Crosby 1-A². Rarity 3. Uncirculated.
70 1652 Pine Tree Three Pence Crosby 2^a-B. Rarity 3. Uncirculated gem.
71 1652 Pine Tree Three Pence Crosby 2^b-B. Rarity 6. Only 2 or 3 known. Extremely fine.
72 1652 Pine Tree Three Pence Crosby. Unknown to. Rarity 6. Only 2 known. Uncirculated.

Above comprises all known varieties.







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